

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 111810Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4561

INFOZ SECDEF

CINCLANT

USMISSION NATO

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0792

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR MARR IC

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: PARTIES FORMULATE  
POSITIONS ON DEFENSE ISSUE

REF: REYKJAVIK 0753; REYKJAVIK 0791

1. STATEMENTS IN PAST FEW DAYS BY PARTY OFFICIALS AND PARTY  
NEWSPAPERS HAVE SHOWN HOW EACH HOPES TO DEAL WITH TOUCHY  
DEFENSE ISSUE IN REMAINING WEEKS OF ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.

2. INDEPENDENCE PARTY HAS MADE CLEAR ITS INTENTION TO CAPI-  
TALIZE ON "DEFENDED COUNTRY" PETITION AND CLAIMS ONLY IT  
HAS CONSISTENT POLICY FOR ACTIVE DEFENSE OF ICELAND. CHARGING  
THAT FONMIN AGUSTSSON AND PROGRESSIVES WILL ALWAYS ALLOW THEM-  
SELVES TO BE PUSHED IN ANTI-US, ANTI-NATO DIRECTION BY COMMUNIST-  
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DOMINATED PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE, THEY SAY ALL WHO ARE CONCERNED

FOR CONTINUED DEFENSE OF ICELAND MUST VOTE FOR THEM. AT SAME TIME, THEY SHOW SOME SENSITIVITY TO CHARGE THAT THEY WANT DEFENSE FORCE TO STAY "FOREVER" BY SAYING THEY FAVOR "CONTINUING REVIEW" OF CONDITIONS WHICH REQUIRE IT.

3. PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE ALSO ATTACKED AGUSTSSON AND PROGRESSIVES BUT FROM OPPOSITE POLE. PARTY NEWSPAPER THJODVILJINN SAID AGUSTSSON HAD "TWISTED THE TERMS OF THE JOINT PLATFORM AGREEMENT" AND HAD NOT ACTIVELY PURSUED NEGOTIATIONS WITH USG WITH AIM OF GETTING TROOPS OUT OF ICELAND. CONCLUDED THAT "ONLY CHANCE FOR SWINGING THE PROGRESSIVES BACK TO THE LEFT" IS A PA VICTORY.

4. PROGRESSIVES ARE CLAIMING THEIR STAND IS MIDDLE-OF-ROAD ONE BETWEEN PA WHICH WANTS TO SEE ICELAND UNDEFENDED AND IP WHICH WANTS TROOPS TO REMAIN FOREVER. AGUSTSSON SAYS HIS PROPOSAL THAT ICELAND REMAIN MEMBER OF NATO WHILE PROHIBITING PERMANENT STATIONING OF TROOPS IN COUNTRY ASSURES ICELAND'S SECURITY, SERVES NATO SURVEILLANCE NEEDS (BY ALLOWING SURVEILLANCE PLANES TO LAND IN ICELAND), AND PRESERVES CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH USG AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES.

5. SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE ALSO CLAIMING THEIR POSITION IS ONE OF COMPROMISE ON DEFENSE BUT HAVE NOT PUBLICLY MENTIONED PROPOSAL FOR "UNARMED SURVEILLANCE STATION" SINCE RESULTS OF "DEFENDED COUNTRY" PETITION CAMPAIGN. THEIR PURPOSE APPEARS TO BE ONE OF TRYING TO AVOID "ME-TOO" POSITION TO IP.

6. SPLINTER OLL-YOUNG PROGRESSIVE-YOUNG SOCIAL DEMOCRAT GROUP HAS YET TO WEIGH IN WITH STATEMENT ON DEFENSE AFFAIRS BUT ANTI-IDF STAND IS ONLY CEMENT TO BRING THIS STRANGE GROUPING TOGETHER. THEREFORE, IT MUST BE EXPECTED THEY WILL BLAST AT BOTH IP AND PP (ALONG SAME LINES AS PA HAS DONE) BUT QUESTION WILL BE HOW THEY THEN AVOID "ME-TOO" POSITION TOWARD PA.  
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